

CLAIM AMENDMENTS



14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A bushing, comprising:
a rigid inner sleeve having a substantially cylindrical outer surface;
a rigid outer sleeve having a substantially cylindrical inner surface spaced apart from the outer surface of the inner sleeve;
a plurality of separate, spaced-apart rubber elements disposed between the sleeves, each element having a smooth outer surface coupled to the outer surface of the inner sleeve and to the inner surface of the outer sleeve; and
wherein the elements are preloaded through compression to control the relative movement between the sleeves.

16. (New) The bushing of claim 15, wherein the elements are attached to one of the sleeves.

17. (New) The bushing of claim 15, further including a thin membrane interconnecting the elements.

18. (New) The bushing of claim 15, wherein the elements are embedded in a foam matrix.

19. (New) The bushing of claim 15, further including:
a shoe disposed between the outer sleeve and at least some of the elements; and
an actuator coupled to the outer sleeve for adjusting the level of preload compression.

20. (New) The bushing of claim 19, wherein the shoe includes a plurality of segments, each adjustable through a separate actuator.

21. (New) The bushing of claim 15, wherein:

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the elements have a glass transition temperature; and
the elements are precompressed and frozen below their glass transition temperature prior to
insertion between the sleeves.

²²~~21~~. (New) The bushing of claim 15, wherein the elements are of a shape that demonstrates a low stress concentration under compression.

²³~~22~~. (New) The bushing of claim ~~21~~²², wherein the elements are cylinders having a round or elliptical cross section.

²⁴~~23~~. (New) The bushing of claim ~~21~~²², wherein the elements are torroidal.

²⁵~~24~~. (New) The bushing of claim ~~21~~²², wherein the elements are spheres.

²⁶~~25~~. (New) The bushing of claim ~~21~~²², wherein the elements are ellipsoids.